

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-10 IGA-02 L-02 EB-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 MC-01 DRC-01

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O R 221501Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7351
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0828

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE: ETHIOPIAN FMS PROGRAM

SECDEF FOR ISA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0714

1. EMBASSY/MAAG OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONNECTION THREE-YEAR FMS CREDIT PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOCUSED ON ARMOR WHICH WE UNDERSTAND BEING CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO EMPEROR.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT MULTI-YEAR FMS CREDIT OFFER TO ETHIOPIA WOULD BE WELCOMED BY IEG AS A TANGIBLE, REASSURING SIGN OF CONTINUING AMERICAN INTEREST IN ETHIOPIA'S SECURITY, PROVIDED TERMS WERE NOT PROHIBITIVE IN EMPIRE'S CURRENT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND COULD BE SPECIFIED. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH GREAT DISPARITY IN ARMOR INVENTORIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND

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SOMALIA DEEPLY PREOCCUPIES IEG AND PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL

ARMOR IS CONSEQUENTLY HIGH ON LIST ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE PRIORITIES,
WE SEE PROBLEMS IN TYING ANY SUCH THREE-YEAR FMS CREDIT OFFER
TO ARMOR.

3. INCEPTION ETHIOPIAN FMS CREDIT IS LIKELY INCREASE IEG'S
DESIRE PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN DETERMINATION PROGRAM CONTENT,
SINCE CREDITS MUST EVENTUALLY BE REPAYED. THIS SUGGESTS NEED
FOR AVOIDING IMPRESSION THAT USG WISHES UNILATERALLY DETERMINE
CONTENT OF PROGRAM. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON ARMOR, MOREOVER, LIKELY
BE CONSTRUED BY IEMF AS UNILATERAL VOIDING BY U.S. OF RESULTS
ACHIEVED IN CONSULTATIONS SINCE LAST SUMMER OF JOINT US/IEG
PRIORITIES COMMITTEE, AND AS INDICATION THAT THAT WHOLE
EXERCISE WAS A FARCE. DURING PRIORITY COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS,
US AIDE WAS CONSISTENTLY ABLE OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE OF ITS
JUDGMENT CONCERNING THE RELATIVE PRIORITY OF IEMF DEFENSE
REQUIREMENTS. AS WASHINGTON WILL RECALL, OUTCOME THESE
CONSULTATIONS WAS PRIORITIES LIST BEGINNING WITH U.S. 30
MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ITEMS, INCLUDING RPT INCLUDING TANKS.
THIRTY MILLION DOLLAR TRANCHE IN QUESTION, HOWEVER, ALSO
ENCOMPASSED OTHER ITEMS DETERMINED EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO
EMPIRE'S DEFENSE. WE THINK THE ENTIRE SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM, OF WHICH FMS CREDIT WOULD BE INTEGRAL, SHOULD PROVIDE
OPTIMUM MIX OF THINGS IEMF NEEDS MOST.

4. AS U.S. PLANNING LIKELY HAVE TO ACCOMMODATE NUMBER OF
VARIABLES OVER NEXT THREE YEARS, SUCH AS CONTENT FUTURE SOVIET
DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA, POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IEG'S
DEFENSE BUDGET, ETC., WE THINK IT DESIRABLE IN ANY EVENT NOT
TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO SINGLE CATEGORY OF FMS PROCUREMENT IN
CONTEXT EVENTUAL THREE-YEAR FMS OFFER.

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